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Soviet Says a C.I.A. Station Chief Passed On Instructions to Daniloff

By PHILIP TAUBMAN

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MOSCOW, Sept. 13 — The Soviet Union presented new espionage charges against an American correspondent today and said the United States was holding East-West relations hostage to the case.

The charges were presented by Gennadi F. Gerasimov, Foreign Ministry spokesman, at a news briefing. He said the Soviet Government had "irrefutable" evidence that the correspondent, Nicholas S. Daniloff of the magazine U.S. News & World Report, had "acted on instructions" of an American diplomat, Murat Natirboff, who ended an assignment here this summer.

The Soviet Government press agency, Tass, in reporting Mr. Gerasimov's briefing, identified Mr. Natirboff as Moscow station chief of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Iaroslav Verner, a spokesman for the United States Embassy, said Mr. Natirboff's title at the embassy was counselor for regional affairs.

[In Washington, a White House spokesman repeated the Government's assertion that Mr. Daniloff was not a spy and had never worked for an American intelligence organization. At the State Department, a spokesman declined to provide information about Mr. Natirboff.]

Mr. Natirboff is the second embassy official to have been linked by the Soviet authorities to Mr. Daniloff. Last Monday the Government newspaper Izvestia said Mr. Daniloff had been alluded to in a letter from Paul M. Stombaugh, an embassy staff member who was expelled in June 1985 for what Moscow said was espionage.

Daniloff Again Denies U.S. Link

Mr. Daniloff, who was released from prison Friday into embassy custody pending trial, told The Associated Press that he "would not dignify the charges by commenting on them."

Earlier, in a written statement read by his wife, Ruth, he said, "I have no official or secret relationship with any intelligence agency."

The custody arrangement under which Mr. Daniloff was released from jail also involved the release in New York of Gennadi F. Zakharov, a Soviet employee of the United Nations, who faces espionage charges in the United States.

Mr. Daniloff, who is free to move about Moscow but must check in with

the authorities by phone every day, spent a quiet day at the embassy, according to his wife.

Mr. Daniloff, in his written statement, reported that he had called Valery D. Sergadeyev, the investigator handling his case, three times today but the phone was not answered.

She said he was "nervously and emotionally exhausted" from his 14-day confinement at Lefortovo Prison.

The Daniloffs, although free to return to their own apartment under the terms of the release, have settled temporarily in a spare apartment in the embassy compound.

When Mr. Daniloff was arrested on Aug. 30, he was preparing to wind up his assignment and return to the United States. His replacement, Jeff Trimble, has moved into the U.S. News apartment with his family.

Mr. Gerasimov, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, who presented the new espionage charges after Mrs. Daniloff had read her husband's statement, said continuation of the investigation did not rule out a diplomatic resolution.

"We don't want such problems to poison the atmosphere of relations," he said. "The Soviet Union does not want this trivial and secondary incident to interfere with the development of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union."

Unusual Saturday Briefing

Western diplomats said the unusual Saturday briefing was apparently intended to keep pressure on the United States to accept the Soviet position that the Zakharov and Daniloff cases were similar and that the resolution of one was tied to that of the other.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz indicated Friday that the United States had accepted embassy custody grudgingly for the well-being of Mr. Daniloff. The agreement appeared to represent a retreat from Washington's earlier position that Mr. Zakharov not be released until Mr. Daniloff was back in the United States.

"The continued detention of Mr. Daniloff on false charges is unacceptable," Mr. Shultz said.

Mr. Gerasimov said Mr. Shultz had adopted "an unacceptable position that makes Soviet-American relations hostage to the case of a trivial spy."

The Soviet spokesman, citing the testimony of three unidentified Soviet

citizens, said Mr. Daniloff had been collecting secret information about Soviet military forces and installations, nuclear energy centers and radioactive waste sites.

Says Data Given to U.S.

He said the information, including copies of C.I.A. directives involving Mr. Daniloff's activities, had been made available to the United States, but had been ignored by Mr. Shultz.

Mr. Gerasimov denied that the authorities once tried to pressure David Goldfarb, a geneticist, to set up Mr. Daniloff. The incident had been related by Mr. Goldfarb's son, Alex, a Columbia University microbiologist.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman said David Goldfarb had denied the account when he was interviewed recently by a Tass reporter.

At the United States Embassy, Mrs. Daniloff said that her husband, after feeling "incredibly euphoric" when he was released from prison, was decompressing.

"It is gradually sinking in that he is still a hostage," she said.

She said that just before he left the prison, Mr. Daniloff was asked by his cellmate, a scientist, to smuggle out a mathematical formula, apparently an attempt to entrap Mr. Daniloff.

She said her husband lost weight during the confinement and at first had difficulty sleeping because the lights in the cell were left burning all night.

Mr. Daniloff, saying it was time "to cool" the furor around his case, said it might disrupt Soviet-American relations as the two sides approach a decision on whether to schedule a summit meeting this year.